

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 25, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 526**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Chan**

February 18, 2003

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An act to ~~amend Section 2107 of~~ *add Section 2107.5 to* the Elections Code, relating to registration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 526, as amended, Chan. Voter registration.

Under existing law, persons eligible to vote must register to vote no later than 14 days prior to election day.

This bill would permit Alameda County to establish a pilot program, for elections held entirely in the county, under which persons could register and vote at specified locations during a ~~29-day~~ *14-day* period up to and including election day. The bill would require the Secretary of State to study the program to report its effect on voter turnout and voter fraud, *and to assess its feasibility for other jurisdictions*.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 2107 of the Elections Code is amended~~
- 2 *SECTION 1. Section 2107.5 is added to the Elections Code,*
- 3 *to read:*
- 4 *2107.5. (a) Alameda County is authorized to establish a pilot*
- 5 *voter registration program for local elections held entirely within*

1 the county. The pilot program shall provide that, notwithstanding  
2 any other provision of law, any person entitled to register to vote  
3 under Section 2101 shall be permitted during the 14-day period up  
4 to and including the day of the election to register and vote at the  
5 office of the elections official or at satellite offices that the  
6 elections official establishes for this purpose. The pilot program  
7 shall end after the county has administered the pilot program for  
8 two elections.

9 (b) Persons wishing to vote pursuant to this section shall, upon  
10 presenting identification and proof of residence within Alameda  
11 County, be entitled to vote using a regular ballot. The Secretary of  
12 State shall specify acceptable identification and proof of  
13 residence.

14 (c) The elections official shall notify the public of all locations  
15 in Alameda County where persons eligible to vote may register and  
16 vote during the 14-day period up to and including the day of the  
17 election, by issuing a press release no later than 40 days before  
18 election day. The press release shall state the address of all  
19 locations and the date and hours that each location will be open.

20 (d) The Secretary of State shall conduct a study of elections  
21 held under this pilot program to determine its impact on voter  
22 turnout, to evaluate whether voting fraud occurred as a result of  
23 the program, and to assess its feasibility for implementation in  
24 other jurisdictions.

25 (e) If Alameda County establishes the pilot program authorized  
26 by this section, that county shall be responsible for the costs of  
27 implementing the pilot program.

28 (f) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1,  
29 2005, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,  
30 that is enacted before January 1, 2005, deletes or extends that date.  
31 to read:

32 ~~2107. — (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), the county~~  
33 ~~elections official shall accept affidavits of registration at all times~~  
34 ~~except during the 14 days immediately preceding any election;~~  
35 ~~when registration shall cease for that election as to electors~~  
36 ~~residing in the territory within which the election is to be held.~~  
37 ~~Transfers of registration for an election may be made from one~~  
38 ~~precinct to another precinct in the same county at any time when~~  
39 ~~registration is in progress in the precinct to which the elector seeks~~  
40 ~~to transfer.~~

~~(b) The county elections official shall accept an affidavit of registration executed as part of a voter registration card in the forthcoming election if the affidavit is executed on or before the 15th day prior to the election, and if any of the following apply:~~

~~(1) The affidavit is postmarked on or before the 15th day prior to the election and received by mail by the county elections official.~~

~~(2) The affidavit is submitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles or accepted by any other public agency designated as a voter registration agency pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1973gg) prior to the election.~~

~~(3) The affidavit is delivered to the county elections official by means other than those described in paragraphs (2) and (3) on or before the 15th day prior to the election.~~

~~(c) (1) A pilot program of up to one year may be established, upon adoption of a resolution of assent to the pilot program by the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County, for elections held entirely within Alameda County. The pilot program may provide that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person entitled to register to vote under Section 2101 shall be permitted during the 29-day period up to and including the day of the election to register and vote at the office of the elections official or at satellite offices that the elections official establishes for this purpose.~~

~~(2) Persons wishing to vote pursuant to this subdivision shall, upon presenting identification and proof of residence within Alameda County, be entitled to vote using a regular ballot. The Secretary of State shall specify acceptable identification and proof of residence.~~

~~(3) The elections official shall notify the public of all locations in Alameda County where persons eligible to vote may register and vote during the 29-day period up to and including the day of the election, by issuing a press release no later than 40 days before election day. The press release shall state the address of all locations and the date and hours that each location will be open.~~

~~(4) The Secretary of State shall conduct a study of elections held under this pilot program to determine its impact on voter~~

1 ~~turnout and whether voting fraud occurred as a result of the~~  
2 ~~program.~~

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